

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01 FAA-00 L-03 SS-15

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8499

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, UK, FR

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: CONCORDE

1. SECRETARY OF STATE FOR TRADE, EDMUND DELL, CALLED IN
AMBASSADOR DEC. 7 TO PRESENT AIDE MEMOIRE ON BRITISH
INTEREST IN OBTAINING PERMISSION FROM PORT OF NEW YORK
AUTHORITY TO OPERATE CONCORDE TO NEW YORK.

2. THE AMBASSADOR TOLD MR. DELL HIS VIEWS WOULD BE
TRANSMITTED TO THE DEPT. OF STATE. TEXT OF AIDE MEMOIRE
FOLLOWS:

BEGIN QUOTE: THE START OF CONCORDE SERVICES TO NEW YORK
IS OF THE GREATEST IMPORTANCE TO BRITAIN AND FRANCE. THE
US GOVERNMENT WILL BE WELL AWARE OF THE SCALE OF INVEST-
MENT IN THE CONCORDE PROGRAMME. FROM THE OUTSET, THE
AIRCRAFT HAS BEEN DESIGNED WITH THE MAJOR NORTH ATLANTIC
ROUTES IN MIND, AND NEW YORK IS RECOGNISED AS THE KEY TO
ITS SUCCESSFUL EXPLOITATION. WE TRUST THAT THE OUTGOING
ADMINISTRATION WILL ENSURE THAT THE FREQUENTLY EXPRESSED
VIEWS OF THE BRITISH AND FRENCH GOVERNMENTS ON THIS ISSUE
WILL BE GIVEN FULL EMPHASIS IN BRIEFING FOR THE INCOMING
ADMINISTRATION.

/WE ARE DISAPPOINTED THAT IT APPEARS UNLIKELY THAT THE
PORT AUTHORITY OF NEW YORK AND NEW JERSEY WILL REACH ITS
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DECISION IN DECEMBER AS WE EXPECTED. THE DATA AVAILABLE

ON CONCORDE OPERATIONS OVER THE LAST SIX MONTHS AT WASHINGTON AND ELSEWHERE JUSTIFY A FAVOURABLE DECISION ON STARTING THE TRIAL PERIOD OF SERVICES AT NEW YORK.

WE HOPE THAT IN ANY CASE A FAVOURABLE DECISION WILL BE REACHED BEFORE THE PRESENT ADMINISTRATION LEAVES OFFICE. IT IS CLEARLY DESIRABLE THAT SECRETARY COLEMAN'S DECISION SHOULD BE CONFIRMED BY APPROVAL FROM THE PORT AUTHORITY WHILE THE PRESENT ADMINISTRATION HOLDS OFFICE; IT WOULD ALSO BE PREFERABLE TO AVOID LENGTHY LITIGATION. SUCH A DECISION WOULD BE DEFENSIBLE POLITICALLY AND CONSISTENT WITH VIEWS EXPRESSED BY PRESIDENT-ELECT CARTER.

WE THEREFORE SUGGEST THAT AS PART OF ITS BRIEFING FOR THE INCOMING ADMINISTRATION THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE MIGHT CONVEY THE POINTS SET OUT ABOVE TO MR. CARTER'S STAFF. THE CHANCES OF AN EARLY AND FAVOURABLE DECISION BY THE PORT OF NEW YORK AUTHORITY WOULD BE MUCH IMPROVED IF MR. CARTER'S STAFF COULD ALSO BE INVITED TO INDICATE TO GOVERNOR CAREY THAT THEY WANTED A DECISION TO BE TAKEN QUICKLY.

WE SHALL BE SENDING A STATEMENT ON OUR TREATY RIGHTS REGARDING CONCORDE TO THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE WITH THE REQUEST THAT THEY SHOULD FORWARD IT TO JUDGE POLLACK'S COURT. WE TRUST THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE WILL GIVE THIS STATEMENT THEIR POSITIVE ENDORSEMENT. WE WOULD BE HAPPY TO DISCUSS IN ADVANCE THE TERMS OF SUCH A STATEMENT SO THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE CAN SATISFY ITSELF THAT SUCH AN ENDORSEMENT CAN BE GIVEN.

DEPARTMENT OF TRADE
7 DECEMBER 1976 END QUOTE

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